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THE BLACK DEATH.

Account of the Great Plague in Europe

During the Fourteenth Century.

The great plague, known as the

"Black Death," was the most deadly

epidemic ever known. It is believed

to have been an aggravated outbreak

of the Oriental plague, which from the

earliest records of history has periodically

appeared in Asia and Northern

Africa. There had been a visitation

of the plague in Europe in 1348, the

black death, in terrible violence

appeared in 1348-9; it also came in

milder form in 1351-2, and again in

1389. The prevalence and severity of

the pestilence during this century is

ascribed to the disturbed conditions of

the elements that preceded it. For a

number of years Asia and Europe had

suffered from mighty earthquakes,

furious tornadoes, violent floods,

clouds of locusts darkening the air

and poisoning it with their corrupt-

ing bodies. Whether these natural

disturbances were the causes of

the plague is not certainly

known, but many writers on the

subject regard the connection

as both probable and possible. The

disease was brought from the Orient to

Constantinople, and early in 1347 ap-

peared in Sicily and several coast

towns of Italy. After a brief pause, the

pestilence broke out at Avignon in

January, 1348, and advanced thence to

Southern France, Spain and Northern

Italy. Passing through France and

visiting, but not yet ravaging, Ger-

many, it made its way to England, en-

tering down its first victims at Dorset, in

August, 1348. Thence it traveled

slowly, reaching London early in the

winter. Soon it entered the entire

kingdom, penetrating to every rural

hamlet, so that England became a mere

pest-house. The chief symptoms of the

disease are described as "spitting, in

some cases actually vomiting, of

blood, the breaking out of inflamma-

tory boils in parts or over the whole of

the body, and the appearance of those

dark blotches upon the skin which

suggested its most startling name.

Some of the victims died almost on the

first attack, some in twelve hours,

some in two days, almost all within

the first three days. "The utter power-

lessness of medical skill before the dis-

ease was owing partly to the ignor-

ance of its nature, and largely to the

effect of the spirit of terror, which

hung like a pall over men's

minds. After some months had

passed, the practice of

opening the hard boils was adopted,

with very good effect, and many lives

were thus saved. But the havoc

wrought by the disease in England

was terrible. It is said that 100,000

persons died in London, nearly 60,000

in Norwich and proportionate numbers

in other cities. These figures seem in-

credible, but a recent writer, who has

spent much time in the investigation of

records, asserts that at least of the

population, or about 2,500,000 souls, of

MISCELLANEOUS.

Cranks are nuisances, but the farm-

er's boy is apt to think the griddle-

crank the worst of the lot, about haying

time.

—She—"Are you going to the picnic

Tuesday, George?" He—"O, yes."

She (with feeling indifference)—"Alone,

George?" He—"No; I shall take an

umbrella."—Puck.

—The Daily Moon says the report

that James May, of Battle Creek, who

was bitten by a rattlesnake, was about

to die, is incorrect. It was the snake

that died.

—Charles Johnson, of Griffin, Ga.,

says that he has a cat that turned from

jet black to gray from grief at being

separated from his children, to whom

it was greatly attached.

—A peach tree forty years old, at

Sonoma, Cal., has produced 250 pounds

of fruit this season. Most of the peaches

measured over eight inches in circum-

ference.

—Thomas Ford, of Ellsworth, Me.,

while at work in his garden, dug out

of the earth a small gold watch, and

a few days after a long gold chain. The

articles look as if they might have been

lost some ten years ago.

—In the early part of the reign of

Henry VIII. Lord Chief Justice Reed

tried an action, when on circuit, in

which the jury was locked up, but be-

fore giving its verdict had eaten and

drunk, which all the members con-

fessed. This being reported to the

judge, he fined them each heavily and

took their verdict.

—At Parkersburg, W. Va., a little

boy found an old liquor barrel, and

amused himself by dropping lighted

matches through the vent hole. Pres-

ently there was an explosion, and boy

and barrel were blown into the

branches of a neighboring tree. The

boy was badly hurt and the barrel

ruined.

—A considerable excitement has been

aroused in Louisiana by the report

that leprosy existed at St. Martinville

in that State. The State board of

health has made an examination and

finds that five persons are suffering

from undoubted leprosy, while three

others are yet in doubt.

—What are you crying about, John-

ny?" asked Mr. Fitzgerald of his little

boy Johnny, Christmas day. "I can't

—how—how—my empty horse,"

and then the poor little fellow broke

down completely. "Where did you

put it?" "I—I—eat it up."—Texas

Siftings.

—A one-legged beggar of St. Louis

was so urgent in his requests for

alms that he was arrested the other day.

When the police searched him they

found fifteen tobacco pipes in his pocket

and sewed to his ragged clothes, and

each bag contained some money.

The total amount was \$74.41.

—It is a common thing for sailors on

west-bound English steamers to find

from ten to fifteen straws.

The freight handlers are great friends to

the tramps who wish to make an in-

expensive voyage. In vessels that bring

over brick the loaders will build up a

little room around two or three men,

and in several cases from a dozen to

two dozen men have thus been secrete.

—Omaha politician.—(What did you

buy that thing for?" His wife: "I want

my dear, is a necktie, and I want you

to wear it."—What? Wear a necktie

and let my constituents get the idea I

feel myself above them. Woman, if you

had your way I'd be ruined." "But

we are going off on a visit, you know."

"O, well, hide it in a sack until we

get into the cars, then I'll put it on."

—The Yezidis are the Kurdish "devil

worshippers." They have no ceremonial

ablutions, or attach no importance to

them, and are allowed to use nothing

colored blue. They will not sit down

on a sofa having a blue tassel or enter

a room containing an article of furni-

ture covered with blue cloth. Their

religion prohibits them from serving as

soldiers, though there appears to be

nothing to prevent them from cutting

throats on their own account.—Boston

Globe.

—In the Colorado desert, near Idaho

there is a large bed of rock-salt, and

the Southern Pacific railroad, in laying

the track to the salt-bed, has been

obliged to grade the road for twelve

hundred feet with blocks of these beau-

tiful crystals. This is the only instance

where a road-bed is laid and ballasted

on salt. The sea which once rolled over

this place dried up and left a vast bed

of salt nearly fifty miles long. The

supply is inexhaustible and the quality

excellent.—Public Opinion.

—A stranger, who claimed to be a

slator, applied for work in Newark, N.

J., one day recently, and was given

employment on the roof of an un-

finished house with another workman.

A few minutes after the other work-

man, not getting an answer to a ques-

tion, looked around and found himself

alone on the roof. Peering down the

hole where the chimney was to be

placed, he saw the stranger lying at

the bottom—sixty feet below. He gave

the alarm, and brandy was procured

and administered. "An hour after-

ward the stranger dragged himself to a

street-car and rode away."

Not Much Disappointed.

"Haven't been a stray young woman

picked up and brought in to-day?" He

inquired at police headquarters last

night.

"No, sir."

"Any report of anybody being

drowned?"

"No."

"Anybody run over and killed?"

"No. Some of your friends missing?"

"Well, I agreed to meet my girl at

the office of the justice of the peace at

ten o'clock this forenoon, and we were

to be married, but she didn't show up."

"That's very strange. Was she well?"

"Yes, in tip-top health."

"And you are greatly disappointed,

of course?"

"Not so very much. I kinder thought

if she came around there we'd kinder

get married, but I hadn't got any hopes

on it. She's the third one who has

jumped me inside of two weeks, and

I've learned not to bet my hat on any

thing going to happen in no such world

as this. Oh—well! Let 'er go, Gal-

lagher!"—Detroit Free Press.

Worth Knowing.

Mr. W. H. Morgan, merchant, Lake

City, Ill., was taken with a severe

cold, attended with a distressing

cough and running into consumption

in its first stages. He tried many so-

called popular cough remedies and

steadily grew worse. Was reduced

in flesh, and difficulty in breathing

and was unable to sleep. Finally

tried Dr. King's New Discovery for

Consumption and found immediate

relief, and after using about a half

dozen bottles found himself well and

has had no return of the disease. No

other remedy can show so grand a

record of cures, as Dr. King's New

Discovery for Consumption. Guar-

anteed to do just what it claims for it.

For sale at Harry B. Garner's City

Pharmacy.

Renews Her Youth.

Mrs. Phoebe Chesley, Peterson, Clay

Co., Iowa, tells the following remark-

able story, the truth of which is

vouched for by the residents of the

town: "I am 73 years old, have been

troubled with kidney complaint and

various ailments for many years; could

not dress myself without help. Now I

am free from all pain and soreness,

and am able to do all my own house-

work. I owe my thanks to Electric

Bitters for having renewed my youth,

and removed completely all disease

at Harry B. Garner's City Pharmacy.

Bucklen's Arnica Salve.

THE BEST SALVE IN THE WORLD FOR

Cuts, Bruises, Sores, Ulcers, Salt

Rheum, Fever Sores, Tetter, Chapped

Hands, Chilblains, Corns, and all skin

Eruptions, and positively cures Piles,

or no pay required. It is guaranteed

to give perfect satisfaction, or money

refunded. Price 25 cents per box.

Sold by Harry B. Garner, City Phar-

macy.

COLLEGE EXPENSES.

What Sum is needed to send a Boy

Through?